

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(IN FORMAT COMPLIANT WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121)

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

an interface connectable to a network, said interface configured to generate a frame transmitted on said network, said frame configured to store one or more data packets in a plurality of channels, wherein (i) a first of said plurality of channels is configured to store at least one of two or more fragments of said one or more data packets and (ii) said at least one fragment comprises one or more offset locators configured to point to a next fragment of said two or more fragments.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein~~ An apparatus comprising:

an interface connectable to a network, said interface configured to generate a frame transmitted on said network, said frame configured to store one or more data packets in a plurality of channels, wherein (i) a first of said plurality of channels is configured to store at least one of two or more fragments of said one or more data packets and (ii) a second of said channels is configured to store only complete packets of said one or more data packets from a fixed bandwidth source.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said network comprises a fiber optic network.

4. (CANCELED)

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said frame comprises one or more offset locators configured to point to a next fragment of said two or more fragments.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 5 1, wherein said ~~frame~~ next fragment further comprises one or more header locations configured to identify said next fragment.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 5 1, wherein each of said fragments comprise ~~frame further comprises~~ one or more trailer locations each configured to identify either (i) an end of said one or more offset locators or (ii) an end of said one or more data packets.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of channels comprises a fixed bandwidth channel.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein~~ An apparatus comprising:

an interface connectable to a network, said interface configured to generate a frame transmitted on said network, said frame configured to store one or more data packets in a plurality

of channels, wherein (i) a first of said plurality of channels is configured to store at least one of two or more fragments of said one or more data packets and (ii) a payload portion of each of said one or more data packets is configured to be reloaded with a partial data load.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of said one or more data packets is selected from a group consisting of Internet Protocol packets, Packet-Over-SONET packets, Point-to-Point Protocol packets, Asynchronous Transfer Mode cell packets, G.702-based Plesiochronous Digital Hierarchy (T1/T3) packets, Spatial Reuse Protocol packets, and Frame Relay packets.

11. (CANCELED)

12. (CANCELED)

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

one or more nodes coupled to a network, each of said nodes configured to receive and transmit one or more of a plurality of frames each configured to store one or more data packets in a plurality of channels, wherein (i) two or more of said channels are configured to store two or more fragments from a first of said one or more data packets, respectively, and (ii) said two or more channels are separated by at least one of said channels and (iii)

wherein after fragmentation, said first data packet comprises an
10 offset locator configured to point to a next of said one or more
data packets storing a next fragment of said two or more fragments.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to
claim 13, wherein data from each of a number of sources is
dynamically allocated among said plurality of channels in response
to bandwidth demands.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim
13 ~~13~~ 9, wherein after fragmentation, said first data packet comprises
an offset locator configured to point to a next of said one or more
data packets storing a next fragment of said two or more fragments.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to
claim 15, wherein said next data packet comprises a header location
configured to identify said next fragment.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to
claim 16, wherein each of said first and said next data packets
further comprise one or more trailer locations configured to
identify either (i) an end of said offset locator or (ii) an end of
5 said first data packet.

18. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein each of said plurality of channels comprise fixed bandwidth channels.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein a payload portion of each of said one or more data packets is configured to be reloaded with a partial data load.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for transferring data, comprising the steps of:

(A) transmitting one or more of a plurality of frames;

(B) configuring each of said frames to store one or more data packets in a plurality of channels; ~~and~~

(C) configuring a first and a second of said channels to store one or more fragments of said one or more data packets, a first of said fragments in said first channel being linked by an offset pointer to a second of said fragments in said second channel; and

(D) encapsulating each of said one or more fragments with a header and a trailer.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 20, wherein said offset pointer is transferred after said first fragment in said first channel.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 20
23, further comprising the step of:

encapsulating each of said one or more fragments with a
header and a trailer.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The method according to claim 20~~
A method for transferring data, comprising the steps of:

(A) transmitting one or more of a plurality of frames;

(B) configuring each of said frames to store one or more
5 data packets in a plurality of channels; and

(C) configuring a first and a second of said channels to
store one or more fragments of said one or more data packets, a
first of said fragments in said first channel being linked by an
offset pointer to a second of said fragments in said second
10 channel, wherein said first channel and said second channel are
separated by at least one of said plurality of channels.